

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application.

In the Office Action, Claims 6-12 were allowed, Claims 1-4 were rejected and Claim 5 was objected.

In this Amendment, Claims 1 and 6 are amended, and Claim 5 is cancelled. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this amendment.

Accordingly, Claims 1 – 4 and 6 – 12 are at issue.

I. Objection To Claims

The objection to Claim 5 is now moot in view of its cancellation.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1 and 2

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chan et al. (“Chan”) (U.S. Patent No. 6,527,457).

Claim 5 has been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, Applicant has amended Claim 1 by incorporating all of the substantive limitations of Claim 5.

Thus, Claim 1 is patentable over Chan, as is dependent Claim 2 for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these claim rejections be withdrawn.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claim 3

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of Nishii (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0157862).

Claim 3 is dependent on Claim 1 shown above to be allowable over Chan. Moreover, in addition to Chan Nishii also fails to fairly teach or suggest the distinguishable limitations of Claim 5, now incorporated into Claim 1.

Thus, no combination of the cited references fairly teaches or suggests the subject matter of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is patentable over the cited references, taken singly or in any combination with each other, as is dependent Claim 3.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these claim rejections be withdrawn.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claim 4

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan in view of Cham (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0051028).

Claim 4 is dependent on Claim 1 shown above to be allowable over Chan. Moreover, in addition to Chan Cham also fails to fairly teach or suggest the distinguishable limitations of Claim 5, now incorporated into Claim 1.

Thus, no combination of the cited references fairly teaches or suggests the subject matter of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is patentable over the cited references, taken singly or in any combination with each other, as is dependent Claim 4.

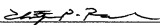
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these claim rejections be withdrawn.

V. **Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that in addition to Claim 6 – 12 Claims 1 – 4 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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